

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computerized method of assessing information technology needs in a business, comprising:

receiving gathering information at a computer associated with the operation of the business and the activities pertaining ~~to the~~ to an information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

applying by the computer strategic value ratings to the activities;

categorizing by the computer the activities into appropriate categories so that like activities are assessed against each other;

determining by the computer which activities within a particular category are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

applying an approval filter to each activity.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, further comprising:

applying the strategic value rating in response to an affirmative approval filter.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

calculating a strategic value assessment for each activity from the strategic value ratings.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

establishing funding for an activity with the highest strategic value assessment.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

comparing the strategic value assessment of a first activity to strategic value assessment of a second activity;

prioritizing the first activity with respect to the second activity in response to the strategic value assessment comparison.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

applying a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the categories include strategic positioning, financial impact, intellectual assets, and business drivers associated with the business.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein technical and risk impacts are considered for application of the strategic value ratings.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the activities are categorized according to whether an activity transforms the business, grows the business, provides a technological advantage, and involves a technology refresh.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including code for assessing information technology needs in a business, the code upon execution by a computer operable to:

receive information associated with ~~the~~ operation of the business and activities pertaining ~~to the~~ to an information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

apply strategic value ratings to each activity;

categorize activities into appropriate categories so that like activities are assessed against each other;

determine which activities within a particular category are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 11 wherein the code is further operable to:

apply an approval filter to each activity.

13. (Original) The computer readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the code is further operable to:

apply a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

14. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 11, wherein the code is further operable to:

calculate a strategic value assessment for each activity from the strategic value ratings.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the code is further operable to:

compare the strategic value assessment of a first activity to strategic value assessment of a second activity;

prioritize the first activity with respect to the second activity in response to the strategic value assessment comparison.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for assessing information technology needs in a business, comprising:

means for receiving information associated with the operation of the business and activities pertaining ~~to the~~ to an information technology initiative desired to be implemented;

means for applying strategic value ratings to each activity;

means for categorizing activities into appropriate categories so that like activities are assessed against each other;

means for determining which activities within a particular category are to be funded in accordance with the applied strategic value ratings.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for applying an approval filter to each activity.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for applying a weight factor to each category pertaining to the initiative.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 16, further comprising:

means for calculating a strategic value assessment for each activity from the strategic value ratings.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 19, further comprising:

means for comparing the strategic value assessment of a first activity to strategic value assessment of a second activity;

means for prioritizing the first activity with respect to the second activity in response to the strategic value assessment comparison.